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25 January 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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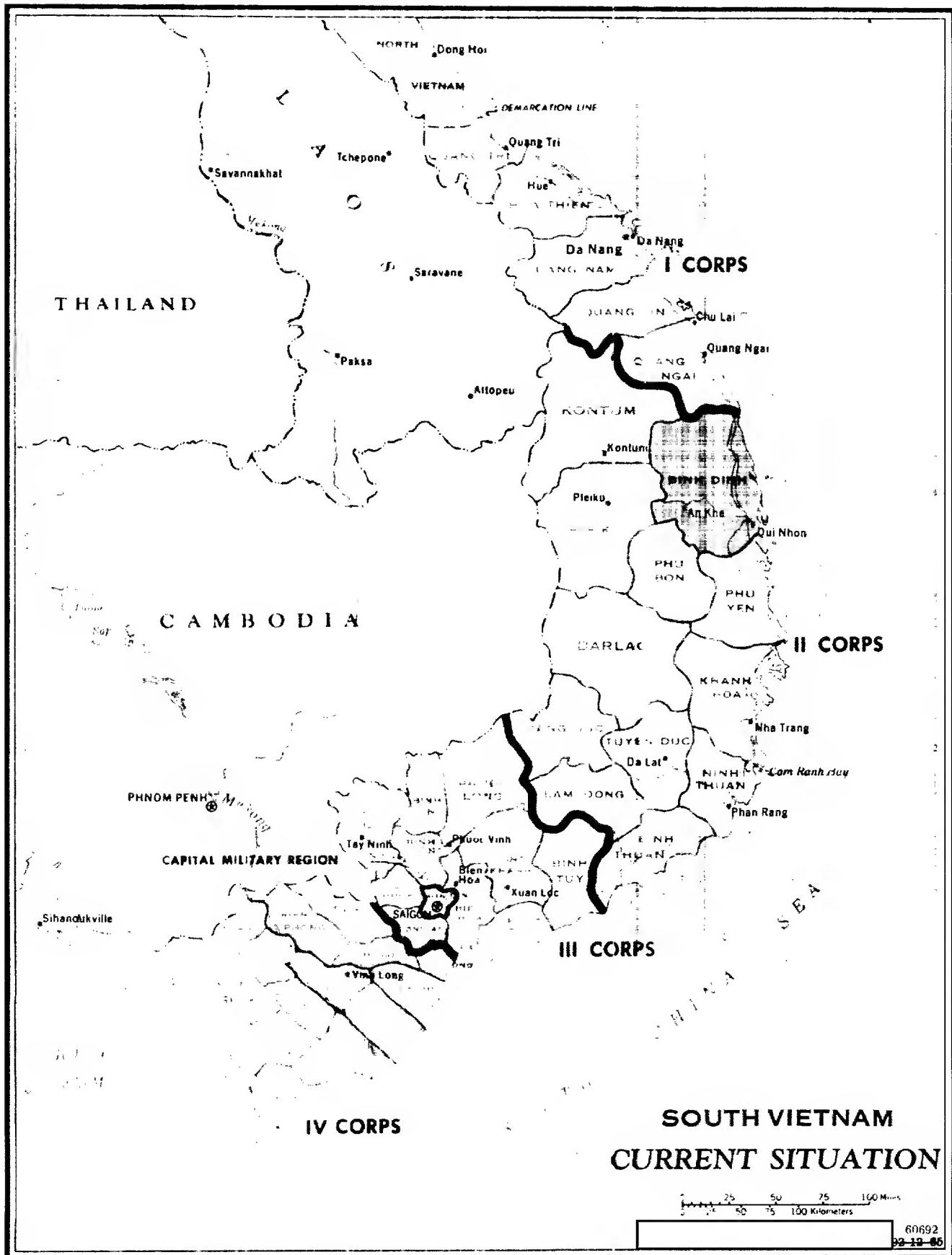
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

The Military Situation in South Vietnam: There have been no reports as yet of significant enemy contact in allied operations resumed in South Vietnam following the Tet cease-fire.

Yesterday, Viet Cong mortar fire directed on the US air base at Da Nang killed two US personnel and wounded 11 others. There was no damage to US aircraft, although some construction equipment was partially destroyed. US officials have reported that the Viet Cong used a 120-mm mortar in this attack.

[US military officials in Saigon have recently expressed concern over the increase of enemy forces in several northern provinces of South Vietnam. In particular, reported Communist troop movements since 8 January indicate that the Viet Cong may be concentrating large forces in northeastern Binh Dinh Province for action in the near future. Units in this province may include one North Vietnamese regiment recently moved from Quang Ngai Province, and up to three additional regiments newly reported in the area but as yet unconfirmed.]

The Political Situation in South Vietnam: The US consul in Hué has reported that about 1,000 persons assembled on 23 January at one of the city's main pagodas to pray for peace. Organized by the provincial Buddhist youth association, the meeting was orderly and relatively subdued in tone, and was similar to recent student prayer-for-peace meetings in Saigon. Although some student statements and banners were reminiscent of the previous militant anti-American student movement in Hué, there is no indication yet whether the meeting was the beginning of a general peace movement or a one-time ceremony.

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Nigeria: The new military regime seems to be improving its chances for maintaining control over the short term, but tribal dissidence could still cause serious trouble.

The regime has taken several steps designed to forestall tribal or communal violence. Nigeria's large Muslim minority has been promised complete freedom of worship, and both General Ironsi and the country's Muslim leadership have urged cooperation to maintain peace. The government has denounced tribalism and, by appointing military governors native to their regions, has tried to diminish the impression that any one tribe will dominate.

Thus far the new leaders have outlined their program only in the most general terms. In domestic affairs they are committed only to the maintenance of law and order while a new constitution is prepared. Foreign policy is to be based on "nonalignment" and "friendly relations with all." Assurances have been given to foreign investors, but some diminution of capital inflow can probably be expected.

For the present, Ironsi and his senior associates will probably continue to have difficulty coping with strategically placed younger army officers who sparked the rebellion. Such elements may not find the present leadership's essentially cautious approach in accord with their idealistic aims for a "new Nigeria."

Over the longer run, serious policy differences seem likely to arise between the top military leaders and the civil servants who are now playing key roles in Lagos and in the provincial capitals.

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*Dominican Republic: [Despite Caamano's departure, there is little to indicate that the military will immediately accept Garcia Godoy's decreed command changes.]

[Senior armed service officers are to meet today to decide their course of action in the present civil-military confrontation.]

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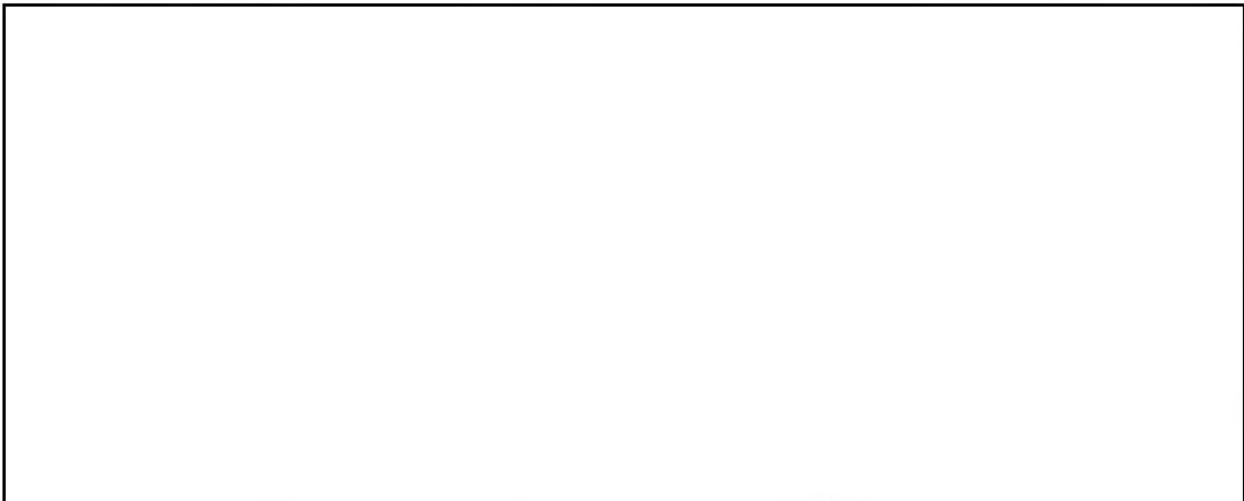
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[For his part, Garcia Godoy appears optimistic that through negotiations he can persuade the military to accept his proposals. He is willing to offer minor concessions on the way in which changes will take place and is hopeful that a split will develop in the military's generally united stand.]

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NOTES



India: Indian Government sources indicate that the growing food crisis has already made nearly 12 million persons entirely dependent upon government grain doles for their subsistence. New Delhi estimates that at least 100 million persons will feel the pinch of food shortages before the crisis abates next November, and that millions of these will be forced to move to government food distribution camps. In Kerala state, where promised shipments of grain from neighboring Madras and Andhra Pradesh failed to arrive, Communist Party demonstrators are attempting to stir up antigovernment sentiment.

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Peru: President Belaunde is under political pressures to expropriate the US-owned International Petroleum Company (IPC) and has threatened to denounce it publicly as an obstacle to US aid to his country. He and many other Peruvians are convinced that US aid is being withheld because of the IPC's inability to negotiate a contract with the Peruvian Government. Should Belaunde, who has consistently favored a contract settlement, actually make a public announcement, prospects for a settlement will be all but ended. 7

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France-NATO: De Gaulle has indicated [redacted] to NATO Secretary General Brosio that France will press for bilateral military arrangements with the other NATO nations at the same time as it does with the US. De Gaulle told Brosio that he would present his proposals on NATO "pretty soon" and that discussions should be "extended" and "quiet." His comments are in line with other inconclusive indicators of a possible easing of the nature and timetable of French moves, but in no way suggest a weakening of his resolve to replace NATO. 1 [redacted]

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